

Wabash Plain Dealer

\$3

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DECEMBER 22, 2021

Tomorrow's weather

29 | 24



Pulse of Wabash

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'Babe in Toyland' event returns for the second year

For the second year in a row, Babe of Wabash County is once again holding its holiday toy drive and distribution, "Babe in Toyland." The program will once again provide toys and Christmas presents to children ages 18 and below to "families in need." The dates and times for this year's toy distribution will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22; and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23 at Babe of Wabash County, 88 W. Hill St. Parents and legal guardians qualify for assistance. There are no income restrictions, no pre-registration required and parents will fill out a family form at the door. Parents and legal guardians will shop at Babe's Christmas store for new and free toys and

See PULSE, page A2

Inside

Classified, A7 Sports, A9
Comics, A6 Viewpoint, A4
Crossword, A6 Weather, A2
Obituaries, A3



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COVID-19

State's first case of Omicron variant detected

Sample collected from unvaccinated Indiana resident Dec. 9

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Sunday, Dec. 19, the Indiana Department of Health (ISDH) announced that it had detected the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus in a specimen collected from an unvaccinated Indiana resident.

"No additional details about the patient will be released due to privacy laws," stated the ISDH.

The variant was detected

through the ISDH Laboratories variant surveillance program. The specimen was collected on Dec. 9, and the patient was notified of the positive test. The sequencing to detect a variant was then conducted, and the Omicron variant was detected this weekend.

Indiana was one of just seven states in which Omicron had not yet been detected, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"You have to think it's coming or you didn't pay attention to every other variant," said Gov. Eric Holcomb, during an interview

on Dec. 9.

The Omicron variant is the latest mutation of the virus that causes COVID-19. The World Health Organization (WHO) labeled it a variant of concern on Nov. 26. Studies have shown that the variant spreads more easily and faster than the Delta variant.

"We still have a lot to learn about the Omicron variant," said Parkview Health chief quality and safety officer Jeffrey Boord, MD, MPH, said during a virtual press conference on Tuesday, Dec. 14. "We don't really know yet, for example, whether or not truly that the Omicron variant will have less

severe illness in general in the U.S. yet. We just don't have enough information at this time to say one way or another."

The CDC says COVID-19 vaccines are expected to continue to prevent severe illness, hospitalization and death from the Omicron variant. Evidence shows that individuals who are fully vaccinated and have received a booster dose are best protected against this variant.

State Health Commissioner Kris Box, M.D., FACOG, said the latest mutation of the SARS-CoV-2 virus underscores the importance of

getting vaccinated and taking other steps to prevent the spread of illness, especially as Hoosiers move indoors during the colder winter months and gather for the holidays.

"COVID-19 cases are on the rise across Indiana, and we do not want this variant to increase the burden on our already stressed healthcare system," Box said. "While we are still learning about Omicron, we already have the tools and knowledge we need to protect ourselves and the people we love from COVID-19. I urge eligible

See OMICRON, page A3

NORTHFIELD SOFTBALL TEAM PRESENTED WITH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RINGS ON SATURDAY



ABOVE: Northfield Principal Jay Snyder presents rings to all members of the 2021 IHSAA Class A Champion Lady Norse on Saturday evening at NHS. From left to right are Snyder and team members Ava Copeland, Jaycie Krom and Emily Pennington. **LEFT:** Northfield Principal Jay Snyder presents rings to all members of the 2021 IHSAA Class A Champion Lady Norse on Saturday evening at NHS. From left to right are Snyder and team members Ava Copeland, Jaycie Krom and Emily Pennington.

Photos by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer

NMPL purchases digital touch Play Table

Grant monies fund acquisition of \$7,275 children's department addition

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

If you walk into the North Manchester Public Library's (NMPL) children's department you may notice something you haven't seen before.

That's because a 32-inch digital touch play table has been installed thanks to a recently received grant.

"This one-of-a-kind touch table features multi-player games for all age demographics," said adult department manager and marketing

coordinator Jeanna Hann. "It is the perfect collaborative and interactive experience, allowing multiple people to play games together. Test your trivia skills with Quiz Touch, your coordination with Balloons Touch, your reflexes with Air Hockey or your vocabulary with Words Touch, and we're just getting started. With multiple games to choose from, there's plenty to keep you entertained, and learning, with each visit to the library."

The purchase of this table was made possible through

the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Indiana State Library.

Children's department head Sarah Joy Morbitzer said the cost of the Play Table was \$7,275.

"The NMPL was awarded additional funds as a part of the grant that will be allocated in other exciting ways in the future," said Morbitzer. Morbitzer said the grant

See TABLE, page A3

New commissioners, county council election district set

All officials still represent the same districts, but some precincts have moved

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Earlier this month, the Wabash County Board of Commissioners approved new election districts for themselves and the Wabash County Council.

At the Monday, Dec. 6 meeting, county attorney Mark Frantz presented the resolutions in response to the completion of the 2020 Census.

"Because of the census there is population deviation between some of the precincts so we just need to redistrict a little bit just to make sure the populations are within a certain range of variation," said Frantz.

Frantz said all the commissioners would remain in

their current districts, along with all the members of the Wabash County Council.

"All of you stay in your current district, which is a good thing," said Frantz, to the commissioners. "All council members stay in their current district, there is just a little bit of movement between which precincts maybe the council members will represent."

Frantz also presented a draft order to change some precinct lines due to annexations. However, he said the commissioners didn't need to approve it at that time.

"The state will review everything and eventually you will approve and sign that," said Frantz.

The commissioners then moved to pass both resolutions on the first reading, before suspending the rules so they could vote on the second reading at the same

See DISTRICTS, page A10

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Wishing Wabash Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

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The tarnishing of the Golden State

The state of California has declared that it wants to be a "sanctuary" for abortion. The Golden State powers-that-be have assembled the California Future of Abortion Council (FAB) to make that wish a reality. Someone should have checked the acronym. What's fab about it? It's fabulously devoid of the moral sense that Bill Clinton's "safe, legal and rare" language at least acknowledged. Not that long ago, Democratic advocates of abortion did not celebrate the life-ending procedure, at least in public. Not so much anymore.

One of FAB's priorities is to "meaningfully address misinformation and disinformation and ensure that access to medically accurate, culturally relevant and inclusive education about abortion and access to care is widely and equitably available." Would that instead we prioritized informed consent – that a pregnant woman or girl knows what her options are besides abortion. We've gotten to a point in our culture where abortion often appears to be preferred – by medicine, education, law and families. Women deserve better than abortion.

In 1971, she wrote in a letter: "I have seen such disastrous consequences, over my long lifetime, such despair, resulting in suicide, such human misery that I cannot help but deplore the breakdown of sexual morality. After all, it involves 'life' itself. We are aghast at the continuing and spreading warfare in the world – the waste of human life, and at home too with abortion used to save the resulting consequences of our acts from suffering, from the cross we impose upon them."

That's the kind of wisdom we need to heed if we want to embrace women and provide true alternatives to abortion. You don't even have to have a strong position on abortion to appreciate Day's common sense. If only more people were in the market for it.

Kathryn Jean Lopez is senior fellow at the National Review Institute, editor-at-large of National Review magazine and author of the new book "A Year With the Mystics: Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living." She is also chair of Cardinal Dolan's pro-life commission in New York. She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.

We've gotten to a point in our culture where abortion often appears to be preferred – by medicine, education, law and families. Women deserve better than abortion.

a society in loving women and treating their children better – not just legally but in every sense. Abortion is a brutal thing that we pressure women and girls into. Newsom clearly doesn't see the grim nature of his language, but it's become ubiquitous in the mainstream Democratic party.

As the FAB Council was making its recommendations on how California could keep in competition with New York for the capital of abortion in the country, the first step in the process of recognizing Dorothy Day as a saint was completed in Manhattan. Day, a journalist, activist and anarchist, was radical in the best of ways – loving the Gospel and truly living it, opposing war and all kinds of injustice, including abortion. She had an abortion early on, and forever regretted it.

Babe of Wabash County would like to remember or honor your loved ones by placing candles in their windows. The candles will light up the house throughout the Christmas season. The cost will be \$25 per candle. In addition to placing a candle in their window, they will also honor your loved one on our Facebook page and in their newsletter. The proceeds for the fundraiser will go towards their coupon program and boutique needs. For more information, call 260-274-0158, email babeofwabashinc@gmail.com or visit www.babeofwabashcounty.org.

PULSE

From page A1

items. No cash is needed. Those who would like to donate to the "Babe in Toyland" may drop off toys or other items during regular business hours at F.I.S.H., 123 W. Canal St.; Lighthouse Mission, 123 W. Canal St.; Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15; First United Methodist Church, 110 Cass St.; and Babe of Wabash County, 88 W. Hill St. Those who wish to donate should be sure to indicate that the toys being donated are for "Babe in Toyland." Financial donations can be mailed to Babe of Wabash County, 88 W. Hill St., Wabash, IN 46992 and a tax receipt will be given. For more information, email babeofwabashinc@gmail.com.

Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distributions

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2021, and Jan. 26, 2022, at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15; and noon Wednesday,

A n angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.'

— *Gospel According to Matthew 1:20b-23NRSV*
Greetings, grace and peace be with you as you read this. My name is Stephen Eberhard and I am the new pastor of Wabash Christian Church here in Wabash. It has certainly been an exciting time for myself and my family as we are getting settled into the Wabash community. I only just arrived in October and still learning so much about this wonderful community. As I write this "sermonette" I find myself doing what many of you are

probably doing, scrambling to put up decorations, making last-minute trips to the store for Christmas presents, finishing projects around the house as the family plans to celebrate the holiday with us. It can sometimes be difficult to find meaning in the world "peace", which is often thrown around this time of the year.

We also realize how this season can be difficult for many. Some may not be able to afford presents, families may not be speaking with one another, grief may occur or be revisited as a family member has passed from this life to the next, individuals and families may even be displaced or homeless finding difficulty in reading the scripture in this sermonette or finding any comfort in the word Emmanuel.

You may feel like hope, peace, joy and love are hard to find in this season and if you do you would feel exactly like Joseph and Mary did. Joseph and Mary did not have much, their family was not around, threats of an empire loomed over their head, an unexpected pregnancy threw all of their plans into a tailspin, and Joseph was ready to give up. It was hard for the two of them to find God in

their midst and to not be in a state of panic. In this time of panic where hope and peace seemed far away, God sent angels as messengers to assure them that even though everything felt like it was spiraling, God was still with them. Joseph and Mary would then travel 90 miles, facing mountains, deserts, limited water and resources, overcoming it all through hope and for a dream. I've traveled 90 miles in a car with a pregnant wife and toddler but couldn't even begin to imagine doing that on foot through a desert with no rest stops or shops along the way. Peace would hardly be the word used to describe it.

It is truly a miraculous journey that Joseph and Mary take, all for a dream of God being with them. We might ask ourselves where we find hope and what dreams push us through to perform the miraculous today. I would lean on the scripture that I've listed understanding how God was with Mary and Joseph,

how Jesus was born into the world so God is with us in the flesh, and how God's living body is still with us in the works of our community. I've seen amazing ministries occur lifting each other up as sisters and

brothers in Christ in our community demonstrating that God is truly with us. I've witnessed services such as Babe, White's Residential Services, Hands of Hope, FISH and so many others who serve the marginalized in our community demonstrating how God has not forsaken His people. I've witnessed Christmas Spirit being supported by churches throughout the community so families may experience the joy of giving in this season. I've witnessed the love experienced in our churches and at my church, Wabash Christian Church, that has welcomed me to this community demonstrating God's love for the stranger who was invited in.

There is so much we can give thanks for beyond the shopping and stress of this season, but instead acknowledge the true season of advent, the experience of God being with us, Emmanuel. In this time, let us look to one another, let us look to God, and let us experience God with us through our love for one another as a community. I give thanks for being able to write to all of you today and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Stephen Eberhard is the pastor of Wabash Christian Church.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wabash City Hall to close for Christmas holiday

Wabash City Hall and all non-essential departments of the city of Wabash will be closed from 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 1 at Salamonie Lake's Upper Wabash Interpretive Services, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews, according to interpretive manager Teresa Rody.

Salamonie Lake First Day Hike planned for Jan. 1

Join Upper Wabash Interpretive Services' staff for a First Day Hike at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 1 at Salamonie Lake's Upper Wabash Interpretive Services, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews, according to interpretive manager Teresa Rody.

"Start the New Year off

right with fresh air and renewed senses," said Rody. "Meet at the interpretive center for a one-hour stroll through the woods along the moderate Wildlife Management Trail.

"Dress for the weather. Families and friendly dogs on leashes are welcome," she said.

Advance registration is requested by calling 260-468-2127.

For more information,

visit Facebook.com/UppernWabash, https://on.IN.gov/salamonielake or dnr.IN.gov.

Town of Lagro to hold a special year-end meeting

The town of Lagro will be holding a special year-end meeting to sign vouchers at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, according to clerk-treasurer Kristie Bone.

calling all bakers – aspiring, mediocre and experts alike – for their Christmas Cookie and Photo Contest. Entrants should submit their recipe and "a photo of the baking and decorating fun" by Thursday, Dec. 23. A winning entry will be selected in the Kids (Jumbo Cookie Baking Kit), Teen (Decorating Kit, Food Coloring Pens, and Cookie Scoop), and Adult (Bakeware Cookie Sheet Set, Food Coloring Markers, and Cookie Scoop) categories. Winners will be announced the week after Christmas. Participants may enter by visiting www.nman.lib.in.us or by stopping by the library at 405 N. Market St., North Manchester, to pick up a paper entry form.

Jan. 12, 2022, at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester. For more information, visit www.curehunger.org, classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182 or https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410.

Babe of Wabash County selling charity window candle lighting spots

Babe of Wabash County

would like to remember or

honor your loved ones by

placing candles in their windows.

The candles will light up the house throughout the Christmas season. The cost

will be \$25 per candle. In addition to placing a candle in their window, they will also honor your loved one on our Facebook page and in their newsletter. The proceeds for the fundraiser will go towards their coupon program and boutique needs.

For more information, call

260-274-0158, email babeofwabashinc@gmail.com or

visit www.babeofwabashcounty.org.

NMPL accepting entries for Christmas Cookie and Photo Contest

The North Manchester Public Library (NMPL) is

calling all bakers – aspiring, mediocre and experts alike – for their Christmas Cookie and Photo Contest. Entrants should submit their recipe and "a photo of the baking and decorating fun" by Thursday, Dec. 23. A winning entry will be selected in the Kids (Jumbo Cookie Baking Kit), Teen (Decorating Kit, Food Coloring Pens, and Cookie Scoop), and Adult (Bakeware Cookie Sheet Set, Food Coloring Markers, and Cookie Scoop) categories. Winners will be announced the week after Christmas. Participants may enter by visiting www.nman.lib.in.us or by stopping by the library at 405 N. Market St., North Manchester, to pick up a paper entry form.



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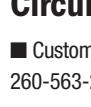
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Wabash Plain Dealer

VOL. 163 NO. 100



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USPS 663-940

Wabash Plain Dealer established September 1858

Published Wednesdays and Saturdays (except on postal holidays) by Paxton Media Group, by the Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992. Periodical postage paid at Wabash, Ind.

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Obituaries

Billie Ray 'Bill' Hall, Sr.

Dec. 11, 1943 - Dec. 17, 2021



Billie Ray "Bill" Hall, Sr., 78, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 4:00 pm, Friday, Dec. 17, 2021, at his home. He was born on Dec. 11, 1943, in Wayland, Kentucky, to Morgan and Lola (Osborn) Hall.

Bill married Lorene Butcher at the Wabash City Park on June 12, 1965. He worked at General Tire/GenCorp, retiring after 42 years. He was a former member of the Wabash Eagles Lodge. Bill enjoyed golfing, Nascar, hunting, fishing, and riding motorcycles.

He is survived by his wife, Lorene Hall of Wabash, three children, Billy Ray Hall, Jr., Rita (Jeff) Gressley, and Melissa (Randy) Booth, all of Wabash, three grandchildren, Cassie (Sean) Brinneman of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Kaitlyn (Collin) Groves of Goshen, Indiana, and Garon Booth of Wabash, five great-grandchildren, Camden Gressley of Wabash, Naivee Brinneman and

Everlee Brinneman, both of Fort Wayne, Skylar Groves of Goshen, and a baby boy on the way, sisters and brother, Kathleen Trippett of Chula Vista, California, Shirley (Stanley) Collins of Wayland, Kentucky, Rebecca (Gene) Hohn of Middleburg, Ohio, Mildred (Bruce) Morgan of Orlando, Florida, and Don (Pam) Hall of Prospect, Ohio. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers Junior and Jimmy, one sister Jackie, and grandson, Cameron Gressley.

Family will receive friends from 1-2 pm Monday at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Ave. Wabash. Private graveside services will be held at Falls Cemetery, Wabash.

Memorials to the family in care of Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service.

The memorial guest book for Bill may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Nellie Blanche Struckman

Nov. 21, 1927 - Dec. 18, 2021



Nellie Blanche Struckman, 94, of rural Denver, Indiana, died at 10:00 am, Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021, at her home. She was born on Nov. 21, 1927, in Linton, Indiana, to William and Jeannetta (Whitworth) Shanklin.

Nellie was a 1945 graduate of Versailles High School in Versailles, Indiana.

She married Omer James "Jim" Struckman in Versailles, on September 26, 1945; he died May 31, 1994.

She was a homemaker, a farmer's wife, and at the age of 70 was a substitute teacher at the Riverside Christian Training School at Lost Creek, Kentucky.

Nellie attended the Roann Christian Church.

She enjoyed crocheting and counted cross stitching.

She is survived by two daughters, Janet (Raymond) Koons of Peru, Indiana, and Carol (Duane) Beam of Denver; five

grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren, and several great great grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by her parents, son James Steven Struckman who died in 1975, nine brothers and sisters, two grandchildren, and one great grandson.

Funeral services will be

2:00 pm, Thursday, Dec. 23, 2021, at Roann Christian Church, with Chris Ponchot officiating. Burial will be in Paw Paw Cemetery.

Friends may call 4-7 pm Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2021, at the church.

Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Roann, Indiana.

Preferred memorial is

Riverside Christian Training School, 114 Riverside Road, Lost Creek, KY 41348.

The memorial guest book

for Nellie may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Tana Rose (Fivecoate) Dingess

Tana Rose (Fivecoate) Dingess, 69, Fort Wayne, formerly of North Manchester, passed away on Dec. 12, 2021.

Tana Rose Dingess will be remembered by her daughter, Brandy (Tyler) Rash; sons, Stacy (Angie) Helton, Jackie R. Dingess and Joshua Dingess; brothers, Lonny (Sally) Fivecoate, Rick Fivecoate,

and Larry (Mary Dingess) Fivecoate; and four grandchildren.

Family and friends may call Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2021 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at Fairview Cemetery, County Road 300 East and County Road 1000 North, Servia. A graveside service will begin at the conclusion of calling.

Ezekiel Ray Huiras

Ezekiel Ray Huiras was born into the arms of Jesus on December 18, 2021. He was the son of Evan and Jena (French) Huiras and the little brother to Karter French and Caroline Huiras.

Ezekiel left his mark on the hearts of his mother and father; brother and sister; paternal grandparents, Erin

and Christy (Cole) Huiras; maternal grandparents, John and Linda (Wagoner) French; aunts and uncles, Alex Huiras, Jaime (Mark) Rose, Joshua (Andrea) French, Andrew (Amy) Kerschner, Khris Kerschner, Stephanie (Billy) Justice, and Kaitlynn Deboy.

A private graveside service will be held at a later date.

Mary Sue Fairchild Mitchell

Services for Mary Sue Fairchild Mitchell are 10:30 am, Thursday, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Ser-

vice, Wabash. Burial in Friends Cemetery, Wabash. Visitation 5-7 pm Wednesday.

UNEMPLOYMENT

From page A1

population center, the Fort Wayne metro unemployment rate, for November was 2 percent, down from 4.7 percent a year ago. For comparison, 4,196 people were considered unemployed last month in that geography compared to 10,287 in November 2020, marking a 52.9 percent reduction in people without jobs but seeking work. In the Fort Wayne metro area, the number of people of working last month compared to a year ago bumped up 1 percent, going from 207,783 to 209,932, while the total labor force, those working and looking for work, declined 1.8 percent from 218,070 to 214,128.

Looking statewide, all Indiana counties reported "full employment" with unemployment rates below 5 percent. Howard County had the highest unemployment rate of 4.7 percent.

Northeast Indiana Works director of communications Rick Farrant said the low number of people ready to work but without a job presently puts an additional strain on those looking for workers.

"The worker cupboard is bare. If you're an employer having difficulty find-

ing workers, November's unemployment numbers might explain at least in part why you are having trouble finding workers to fill open positions," said Farrant. "There simply aren't that many people right now actively looking for jobs who are not currently working. That shrinking labor force means in order to fill open positions one of two things has to happen and, in fact, is already happening: employers need to recruit workers from other jobs or hire people who aren't otherwise looking for work."

Farrant said consumers will likely need to adapt to the ongoing labor shortages and their enduring implications for months to come: short-staffed locations that may need to adjust their hours, limit their services or find other ways to contend with not enough people to fill open positions.

"Some employers have told us that a paucity of workers is causing burnout among those employees still on the job," Farrant said. "This is not an easy time to be in the business of running a business."

As in recent months, the signs of lower local unemployment rates were tempered by the ongoing challenges posed by population loss and an aging

workforce. In August, the initial data from the Census Bureau's 2020 count was released. This showed three counties that lost population in the past decade were Huntington, Noble and Wabash counties at 462, 79 and 1,912 residents respectively.

Grow Wabash County CEO and president Keith Gillenwater, has been helping to lead the Imagine One 85 initiative focused on reversing the trend of local population loss.

Gillenwater said they have been tracking this data year over year and they know that the local population decline started over 40 years ago.

In July, the group held the Imagine One 85 Summit at the Honeywell Center Plaza along with dozens of community members, who submitted ideas to reverse this troubling trend.

In addition to general population loss, Wabash County's labor force has taken a significant hit over the past few years, down from 15,048 in December 2019 to 14,234 in December 2020.

Farrant said it is estimated people at or near the retirement age of 55 and over in some northeast Indiana industry sectors are at or exceed 30 percent.

are under-reported.

Boord said they also had high-quality tests that can test simultaneously for both influenza and COVID-19 infections.

On Tuesday, Dec. 14, Parkview Health public relations manager Tami Bringle said despite the region's near-record high hospitalizations for COVID-19, "Parkview Health is maintaining services and access to care for the community."

Bringle said capacity is continually monitored and managed by health system leaders, and all Parkview hospitals continue to accept patients and ambulances. As a regional health system, Parkview can flex capacity between hospitals or units.

Overall capacity can fluctuate hourly based on admissions, discharges and transfers, as well as available staff to support patient needs.

As of Sunday, Dec. 12, Parkview was caring for 250 of District 3's 342 confirmed COVID-19 hospital inpatients. Bringle said to meet the critical care needs

of the region, more than 240 patient beds have been added at Parkview Regional Medical Center (PRMC) and Parkview Hospital Randallia since the start of the pandemic. PRMC has also recently increased its ICU capacity by converting its specially designed rooms to care for higher acuity patients.

One hundred twenty-five beds were added to expand COVID-19 capacity at both hospitals. Additionally, the PRMC South Tow-

er, an expansion that began before the pandemic, created 96 more beds at the hospital. Parkview Hospital Randallia also added 20 beds through a renovation in June. An additional 24 beds in the PRMC South Tower and 20 beds at Parkview Hospital Randallia will open when construction is complete in early 2022. Crews are also working to add beds at Parkview DeKalb Hospital. Once operational, the expansion could accommodate 46 additional patients, if needed.

Boord said that they have brought in over 600 traveling nurses and other clinical care providers to help deal with this latest surge.

Bringle said to help prevent hospitalizations, Parkview has provided more than 14,000 monoclonal antibody infusions, mostly in its emergency departments, since the treatment became available in late 2020.

Monoclonal antibodies are given to COVID-19 patients with certain risk factors to help prevent hospitalization or death.

Bringle said even with monoclonal antibody treatments available, vaccines remain the most effective way to reduce the risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19. Approximately 83 percent of Parkview patients hospitalized for COVID-19 are unvaccinated.

One year ago, on Dec. 14, 2020, Parkview administered the first COVID-19 vaccines in the state of Indiana. Since then, Parkview

has administered more than 160,000 doses to the community, through its clinic locations on the PRMC campus and pop-up clinics throughout the area.

All this news comes as local vaccination rates continue to lag behind the state average. In the zip code 46992, which comprises Wabash, 41.1 percent of the eligible population has been vaccinated.

Statewide, that figure sits at 54.2 percent, as of Tuesday, Dec. 21.

To date, more than 8 million COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in Indiana, including more than 1 million booster doses. Nearly 3.5 million Hoosiers are fully vaccinated.

The eligible population for vaccinations increased earlier last month as the minimum age was lowered from 12 to 5. On Wednesday, Nov. 3, the ISDH announced that

Hoosiers ages 5 to 11 are now eligible for a free COVID-19 vaccine following the previous day's authorization of the pediatric vaccine by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Pfizer vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine that is currently authorized for use in individuals under age 18.

On Friday, Dec. 10, the ISDH announced that any Hoosier aged 16 or older can receive a booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine so long as they received their second dose at least six months ago.

The CDC on Thursday, Dec. 9 approved the administration of a booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine for in-

dividuals 16 and older following the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) decision to expand its Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to include individuals ages 16 and 17. The Pfizer vaccine is the only vaccine authorized for use in individuals younger than age 18.

Hoosiers aged 16 and older who want to obtain a booster dose should go to www.ourshot.in.gov and look for a location that carries the Pfizer vaccine, designed by PVAX, or call Indiana 211 (866-211-9966) for assistance finding a location. Appointments are recommended, but many sites also accept walk-ins.

The Parkview Health COVID-19 vaccine clinic, currently located at 3718 New Vision Drive, Building C, Fort Wayne, offers first, second and booster doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Booster shots are now recommended for anyone age 16 and older. To make an appointment, visit ourshot.in.gov or call 260-266-0778 or toll-free, 877-651-0748. Walk-ins are also welcome.

On Monday, Dec. 20, the ISDH announced that it has extended its COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway through Jan. 22, 2022. The clinic is being held in the INDYCAR parking lot at 4551 W. 16th St., Indianapolis, across from Gate 2. It offers the two-dose Pfizer pediatric and adult vaccines, as well as the two-dose Moderna vaccine.

Vaccinations and testing

are being offered from noon to 8 p.m. Dec. 20 and 22; from 4 to 8 p.m. Dec. 27 to 29; and in January 2022 from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and from 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays through Jan. 22, 2022.

Hoosiers can make a vaccination appointment for the IMS site at www.ourshot.in.gov by searching for ZIP code 46222. Individuals under age 18 can only receive the Pfizer vaccine. Parents seeking pediatric doses for children ages 5 to 11 should verify that birthdates are entered correctly when registering to ensure that a Pfizer pediatric dose is available.

To pre-register for a COVID-19 test at the site, visit www.coronavirus.in.gov and click on the testing link at the top of the page; then search for the IMS site.

The ISDH stated that the following steps may help protect Hoosiers from COVID-19, including the Omicron variant:

■ Get fully vaccinated if eligible, and get a booster if you are age 16 or older.

■ Wear well-fitting masks over your nose and mouth in indoor public settings and crowded outdoor settings.

■ Get tested if you have symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

■ Stay home if you are sick.

■ Wash your hands frequently.

■ Avoid crowds.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

OMICRON

From page A1

Hoosiers to use those tools as soon as possible to limit the further spread of disease."

Even before Omicron was detected in the state, local COVID-19 spread and deaths remained high in Wabash County as Parkview Health reported a near-record peak for hospitalizations for the region.

During the weekly county metric updated Wednesday, Dec. 15, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) showed Wabash County's COVID-19 advisory as red, the highest level, for the fourth week in a row.

Two weeks ago, the ISDH reported six new local COVID-19 deaths, making it the deadliest week for Wabash County since the start of the pandemic. Last week, the ISDH reported four new local COVID-19 deaths.

Over the weekend, ISDH reported two more local COVID-19 deaths, bringing Wabash County's total to 123. And, on Tuesday, Dec. 21, the ISDH reported one new local COVID-19 death, bringing Wabash County's total to 124.

Boord said for those who have another co-morbid condition, if they contract a respiratory illness such as COVID-19, that can tip a patient over the edge.

Boord said there were copious amounts of medical literature that would indicate that many COVID-19 deaths

came through the America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) "so this grant was a first."

"As pillars of our communities, libraries and museums bring people together by providing important programs, services, and collections. These institutions are trusted spaces where people can learn, explore and grow," said IMLS director Crosby Kemper. "IMLS is proud to support their initiatives

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact
your legislators:

**U.S. Sen. Todd Young,
R-Ind.**
B33 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

**U.S. Sen. Mike Braun,
R-Ind.**
B85 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

**U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski,
R-District 2**
419 Cannon House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

**State Sen. Andy Zay,
R-District 17**
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

**State Rep. Craig Snow,
R-District 18**
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any
Indiana lawmaker,
go to this website:
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

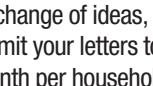
Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



As 2021 marked the end of 'The War on Terror,' we reflect on the end of all conflicts

The 11th hour has become synonymous with Veterans Day, originally called Armistice Day, in recognition of the document signed at the 11th hour, or the 11th day of the 11th month. In reality, the Armistice ending the war to end

all wars was signed around 5 a.m. Nov. 11. It was decided that the formal end of hostilities would occur at 11 a.m. to allow runners to transmit the news to the front. Over the next six hours, nearly 3,000 men would lose their lives in the final hours of a war that had already claimed the lives of 20 million military personnel. The final death of World War I came at 10:59 a.m. one minute before the guns of war would fall silent.

Private Henry Gunther was a German American drafted in the fall of 1917 and joined "Baltimore's Own" 313th Infantry regiment working in supply. He attained the rank of Sergeant but was demoted to Private towards the end of the war. James Cane, of the Baltimore Sun, is regarded as chronicling the most detailed accounts of Sgt. Gunther's final moments. According to Cane, more than anything Gunther wanted to regain the respect of his fellow soldiers, as a German, and after being demoted, he felt as if he had let his fellow soldiers down, because of this he exposed himself to all sorts of risks. His fellow soldiers said that

even in the final moments of the war Gunther felt the need to demonstrate that he was "courageous and all-American."

Gunther and his fellow soldiers were positioned outside the village of Ville-Devant-Chaumont and learned of the end of the war around 10:30 a.m., according to Cane. A chaplain from Gunther's unit recounted, "As 11 a.m. approached, Gunther suddenly rose with his rifle and ran through thick fog. His men shouted for him to stop. So did the Germans. But Gunther kept running and firing. One machine gun blast later, he was dead. His death was recorded at 10:59 a.m. The Germans who had just killed Gunther placed him on a stretcher and carried him to his American company." Upon learning about the event General Pershing bestowed upon Gunther the undesirable, but distinguished designation as the last death of the war. Gunther's rank was posthumously restored, and he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Sergeant Henry Gunther, U.S. Army; June 6, 1895 – Nov. 11, 1918.

A few months after the conclusion of another conflict we as a nation are still trying to come to terms with the harsh reality of war – in every conflict, there is inevitably a final service member who pays the ultimate sacrifice, inevitably one last family who receives that dreaded knock on the door. In World War II, Private Charlie Havlat, the son of Czech immigrants, in the closing days of the war he

found himself liberating his parents' former homeland in the town of Volary. Minutes before the German Army surrendered Charlie was on patrol when his unit encountered a German unit and engaged in a brief skirmish. He had taken cover behind the jeep he was traveling in when he was shot and killed. The skirmish ended when a cease-fire call came over the radio – the war was over. The German officer who led the attack apologized for Charlie's death – word of the cease-fire reached his positions 30 minutes after their engagement. Private Charles Havlat, U.S. Army; Nov. 4, 1910 – May 7, 1945.

On July 27, 1953, the Korean Armistice Agreement was agreed upon bringing an end to hostilities. Despite it, the War has never formally ended. Since the armistice was signed, nearly 100 U.S. soldiers have been killed in combat on the Korean peninsula. Officially, the U.S. has never declared a final casualty in the Korean War.

On April 29, 1975, Charles McMahon and Darwin Judge were two of a small number of Marines tasked with guarding the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. They had been deployed for only 11 days when they were killed by a rocket attack. The U.S. would complete the process of withdrawing from Saigon the following day. In the process of withdrawal, their remains were left behind.

Sen. Ted Kennedy lobbied to repatriate the remains – they received an appropriate burial almost a year later in 1976. Corporal Charles Mc-

Mahon, U.S. Marine Corps;

May 10, 1953 – April 29, 1975. Lance Corporal Darwin Lee Judge, U.S. Marine Corps; Feb. 16, 1956 – April 29, 1975. (Historical note: Twelve days after the fall of Saigon, 18 Americans were killed during the Mayaguez incident in Cambodia – they are the last names inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial).

This month, in almost 3,000 communities across the country Americans came together Dec. 18 to honor the sacrifices of our veterans as part of Wreaths Across America Day. Much attention was paid to the 13 men and women who earlier this year became the final casualties in our nation's longest war.

Officially, the Department of Defense has identified Army Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss as the last of the 2,461 service members who died in Afghanistan. Speaking to NPR his widow said, "He was one of those people that anything he wanted to do, he could have done, he was brilliant. But he just wanted to serve his country, it's all he wanted, he thought that was the best way he could help people. ... If he had a crystal ball, he'd do it again."

It would appear to me, and many of my fellow veterans, that in our current climate we have become so quick to point fingers, assign blame, to politicize every story. In this rush to cast doubt on each other intentions what is lost is the story of these men and women who gave their last full measure in the final days of a conflict that spanned 20 years – a generation of service members, a

generation of military families who have continually sacrificed year after year. Like SSG Knauss, if you asked any of us if we'd do it again, the answer would most certainly be yes. Every one of us who volunteered to serve recognized the inherent dangers of our profession, the challenges military life would bring to our families, and yet we did it anyway, and yes, we'd do it again.

Many of us who left the service often regret leaving, we miss the team-focused mentality, the commitment to something larger than ourselves.

Pause for a moment to remember, that every day our service members put themselves in harm's way. Those who have served our country believed so deeply in American exceptionalism that they were willing to give their lives to defend it. In every war, there is always one that must fill the dignified but dubious role in history as being the last to give the full measure of devotion. We must never forget that it is our solemn responsibility to live up to their legacy and be American's worthy of their sacrifice.

Joseph Reagan is the director of military and veterans outreach for Wreaths Across America. He has almost 20 years of experience working with leaders within government, nonprofit, and Fortune 500 companies to develop sustainable strategies supporting national security and veterans' health. He served eight years on active duty as an officer in the U.S. Army including two tours to Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division. He is a graduate of Norwich University, the oldest private military college in the country.

Biden's baby steps on dirty money

President Joe Biden's administration has a message for the world: After many years of inaction, the U.S. is finally ready to do its part in the global fight against tax evasion, money laundering and terrorist financing.

The sentiment is welcome, but a lot more action is needed.

Once upon a time, the U.S. spearheaded an international crackdown on the financial secrecy that helps the corrupt and the dangerous hide their assets. Since then, much has been achieved. Many advanced nations have established beneficial-ownership registers – often publicly accessible – to reveal the people behind shell companies. They have started to require real-estate professionals, including attorneys and notaries, to report questionable transactions. More than 100 jurisdictions have joined the Common Reporting Standard, which entails automatic sharing of information on the foreign bank accounts of each other's taxpayers.

Yet in a spectacular display of hypocrisy, the U.S. has avoided the transparency that it has demanded from the rest of the world. As the Pandora Papers investigation demonstrated, opaque trusts offered by states such as Nevada and South Dakota have attracted

hundreds of billions of dollars from people seeking extreme financial privacy, outcompeting the likes of Switzerland and the Cayman Islands. Lax controls have made penthouses in Miami and mansions in Beverly Hills into ideal vehicles for laundering criminal proceeds, including from Iranian sanctions-busting and Malaysian embezzlement. The U.S. remains the only major nation that hasn't joined the CRS, undermining other governments' efforts to make people pay the taxes they owe.

It's thus encouraging that Biden wants to set things straight. As part of a broader anti-corruption campaign surrounding the State Department's Summit for Democracy, his administration has announced some important steps in the right direction. The Treasury Department is moving quickly to set up a beneficial-ownership register, as mandated in the Corporate Transparency Act that Congress passed late last year.

And it may require a potentially wide range of real-estate professionals to flag suspicious activity and conduct due diligence on their clients. Unfortunately, even if the U.S. follows through on these measures, many dark corners will remain. The ownership database won't cover those South Dakota trusts, lacks

a verification mechanism, and limits access to certain categories of financial institutions (subject to the client's consent), barring even a modicum of public scrutiny. Key anti-money-laundering rules still probably won't apply to known facilitators such as trust service providers and investment-fund managers. And the Treasury still won't have the authority to provide other governments with the same bank-account information on their taxpayers that it regularly receives from other countries. As a result, the U.S. risks adding to its regulatory burden without deriving much benefit:

As before, a corrupt Russian or Chinese official will be able to park assets legally, without the relevant authorities in his home country or the U.S. knowing about it.

To some extent, rectifying these shortcomings will require further acts of Congress – for example, to shed light on trusts and allow intergovernmental information sharing. In other areas, such as expanding anti-money-laundering reporting to more types of financial professionals, Treasury has the authority to act on its own. In any case, the U.S. needs to do better. Without its full participation, the global fight against dirty money cannot succeed.

— This editorial was first published in Bloomberg.

Celebrating 40 years of the Veterans' Employment and Training Service

By JAMES D. RODRIGUEZ

On Dec. 15, 1981, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment was established to alleviate unemployment for disabled and Vietnam-era veterans by implementing policies and programs to increase opportunities for training, counseling and employment placement services. While much has changed in the past 40 years, including our name, which is now the Veterans' Employment and Training Service, we've remained committed to serving all veterans, including the 4.5 million post-9/11 veterans who now represent the largest group of veterans in the labor force.

At VETS, our mission is to prepare America's veterans, service members and spouses for meaningful careers; provide them with employment resources and expertise; protect their employment rights; and promote their employment opportunities. Last year, over 2,800 VETS staff, contractors, and grantees served more than 370,000 customers.

As VETS moves into the next decades, we will continue to prioritize improving our support for military-to-civilian transition and strengthening our strategic partnerships to connect veterans, transitioning service members and military spouses with good careers.

We will continue to work closely with our federal government partners at the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, Small Business Administration and other agencies to ensure all veterans get the critical services they need. We will also continue to strengthen our partnerships with state workforce agencies and other non-governmental partners to scale our impact across a variety of sectors.

VETS is focused on advancing equity and inclusion in our under-served veteran communities who do not interact with the Department of Labor and other federal government agencies and programs at the same rate as other veteran communities. We are working to identify gaps and barriers to the equitable access of services, and to ensure our programs support all veterans, including women, minority, LGBTQ-plus, rural, and incarcerated veterans, as well as those with disabilities.

We know that hiring veterans is not only the right thing to do but also a good business decision. Connecting employers with talented veterans and military spouses is an important part of our "promote" mission – and VETS has several resources that can help:

VETS' Employer Guide to Hiring Veterans includes a comprehensive overview of everything employers need to know about recruiting, hiring and retaining veteran employees.

Our HIRE Vets Medallion Program recognizes employers of all sizes for their efforts to provide veterans with meaningful, long-term careers.

One-on-one assistance for veterans interested in these and other resources. Please email vets-outreach@dol.gov.

VETS is honored to have served this nation for the past 40 years, and we will continue to uphold our values of integrity, commitment, respect and excellence in our mission to serve veterans, transitioning service members and military spouses.

James D. Rodriguez is the principal deputy assistant secretary for policy for the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service.

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DAILY SCRIPTURE

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the strong hold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 27:1

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Late mother's surprising lifestyle comes to light

DEAR ABBY: I was never close to my mother-in-law, "Agnes." She always came across as very religious and morally upright. She recently died of dementia. It came on so fast that there were things Agnes needed to take care of but was unable to.

My husband was executor of her estate, so we had to go through all of her things and have them appraised after she passed.

One afternoon, my husband discovered a small binder tucked in the back of his mother's lingerie drawer. He looked through it and to say he was "shaken" would be an understatement. He let me read it. Apparently, his parents enjoyed wife-swapping, and Agnes took notes detailing her activities. My husband hasn't mentioned it since, and has left it to me to deal with. I have no idea what to do with it, but we certainly won't share it with his deeply religious brother or our son, who thought the world of the only grandmother he'd known.

I hesitate to destroy her property, but I don't feel it'll benefit anyone to keep it. There is no one I can discuss this with, and it's not a subject my husband wants to talk about. Your thoughts, please. — Embarrassed In Oregon

DEAR EMBARRASSED: I agree that it would be of no benefit to your brother-in-law or your son to learn their respected parents/grandparents were swingers — including the intimate details of the encounters. I'm voting for keeping the past buried along with Agnes.

DEAR ABBY: My adult son "Josh" has moved into the home I share with my significant other, "Tom." Josh is 30, and Tom is in his 60s. Josh has difficulty holding jobs and leaves in fits of anger if someone upsets him at work. This has put me in the middle. When he and Tom get angry at each other, they begin shouting.

I own the home we live in, so I could ask both to move out. I would also like to help my son find a job and housing so I can stop worrying about him being on his own with no place left to go. Josh is married. His wife lives with her parents nearby. Josh can't stay there because he made hurtful comments to her mother.

I just want us all to get along. During their last fight, I threatened to run away and not tell Tom or Josh where I was. I'm on eggshells every day and don't know what to do. Tom is on disability, and I'm still working. I am so frustrated I could scream. Can you help me? — Family Peacemaker

DEAR PEACEMAKER: I'll try, but it will involve you being strong enough to draw a firm line and stand behind it. Insist that your son start counseling for his anger management problems, which are at the root of his employment and marital difficulties, or he will no longer be welcome in YOUR home. Give him a deadline to start and do not waffle. If you stand your ground, you will not only change the direction of Josh's life but also may save your own romance.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Dear
Abby

CROSSWORD

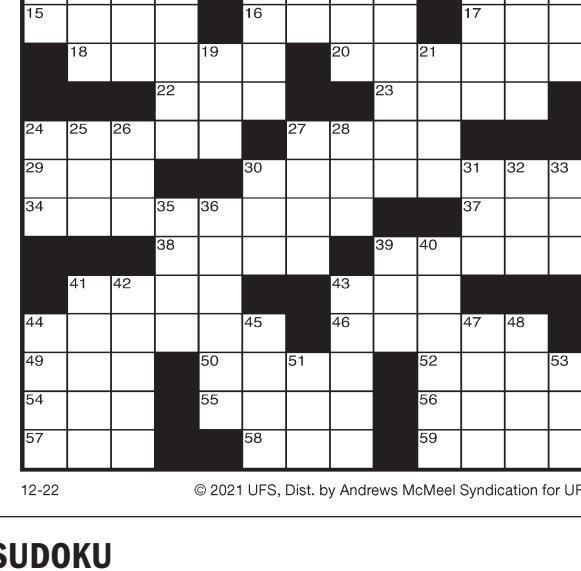
- ACROSS**
- 1 Ewe's offspring
 - 5 Tomahawk network
 - 8 "CSI" folk music
 - 11 Guthrie of Number of Muses
 - 14 Lodge member
 - 15 Chafe severely
 - 16 Put in order
 - 17 Luau welcome
 - 18 Complaints
 - 20 Like some orders
 - 22 Trigger's rider
 - 23 Flapjack chain
 - 24 Summer flower
 - 27 Swedish actress — Olin
 - 29 Dinn's rider
 - 30 Hesitate (2 wds.)
 - 34 Fine
 - 37 Familiar digit
- DOWN**
- 1 Be overdue
 - 2 Sheik, usually
 - 3 Mme.'s daughter
 - 4 Composition by Ravel
 - 5 Uneasy
 - 6 Noon, to Caesar
 - 7 Winds down
 - 8 Yo-Yo Ma
 - 9 TV deletion
 - 10 Fishtail
 - 13 Gazing at
 - 19 Outwit
 - 21 Whaler of fiction
 - 24 Male parent
 - 25 Toolshed item
 - 26 Hosp. worker
 - 27 Bask
 - 28 Chemical suffix
 - 30 Cool
 - 31 Ingested
 - 32 Gear tooth

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	L	E	S	O	P	H	O	L	E
R	I	C	E	S	R	A	U	K	E
K	A	R	L	N	A	M	E	D	R
R	U	E	S	L	P	A	N	N	T
B	A	L	A	S	T				
O	R	G	K	E	Y	S	O	G	R
M	E	A	N	E	I	R	A	I	D
A	B	B	A	H	O	T	D	O	G
R	A	S	P	M	E	W	S	T	E
S	M	I	D	G	E	N			
D	O	D	O	D	T	L	E	S	T

A L E C S O P H O L E
R I C E S R A U K E S
K A R L N A M E D R O P
R U E S L P S A N N
B A L L A S T
O R G K E Y S O G R E
M E A N I E R A I D
A B B A H O T D O G
R A S P M E O W S T E
S M I D G E N
S A P R F D D O Z Y
P R O L I F I C C O U P
U L N A E E O A N K A
D O D O D D T L E S T

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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

3			4	6					
	6	1	8						4
4		2		9					
8	9			2	1				3
5			1						6
1	4		8			5	9		
		2			9				
7				1	2	3			
		3	9						7

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

4	8	5	1	7	2	9	3	6
7	3	1	8	6	9	4	2	5
9	2	6	3	4	5	1	7	8
8	9	3	5	2	6	7	1	4
1	5	4	9	8	7	2	6	3
2	6	7	4	3	1	8	5	9
6	7	9	2	5	8	3	4	1
3	1	2	6	9	4	5	8	7
5	4	8	7	1	3	6	9	2

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AALDS

FWALU

LMFAEE

RUHYOL

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Your picture will be will joining the other great sanitation specialists.

I'm going to miss banging cans.

He's a legend.

THE TRASH COLLECTOR RETIRED AFTER 40 YEARS AND WAS VOTED INTO THE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" " " "

" " " "

(Answers tomorrow)

LOOSEEN PERMIT

Saturday's Jumbles: SKIER YAHOO

Answer: He thought he could pick up the heavy box by himself but was — SORELY MISTAKEN

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0200 EMPLOYMENT

The Grant County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for the 2022 Merit Deputy Eligibility List.

Applications may be picked up at the Grant County Sheriff's Administrative Office or at www.grantcounty.net.

Applicant must have a valid driver's license at time of application. A physical agility test, written tests and an extensive background check will be required.

Completed application must be returned to the Grant County Sheriff's Office, 214 E. 4th St., Marion IN 46952 by 4:00 p.m. January 15th, 2022.

For additional information, please contact Capt. Ed Beaty at 765-662-9836 ext. 2144 or at ebatty@grantcounty.net.

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2 BR 509 E Bradford St
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tenant pays electric

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**0900**

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF WABASH) SS:
IN THE WABASH CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO. 85C01-2112-EU-000114
IN THE MATTER OF THE
UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF
JACQUELINE M. WASSON, DECEASED
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that Elizabeth A. Middleton was, on December 13, 2021 appointed personal representative of the estate of Jacqueline M. Wasson, deceased, who died on the 28th day of November, 2021.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Wabash, Indiana, this 13th day of December, 2021.
/s/Lori J. Draper (SEAL)
CLERK, WABASH CIRCUIT COURT
DOWNS TANDY & PETRUNIW, P.C.
99 West Canal Street
Wabash, Indiana 46992
HSPAXLP.12/22/2021

0900**LISTING OF REAL ESTATE & EQUIPMENT
TAX ABATEMENTS APPLICABLE FOR 2021 PAY 2022**

In accordance with IC 6-1-12.1-8, the County Auditor is required to publish an annual list of deductions as granted for Tax Abatement applications received or acted upon in prior years. 1) The list must contain the names and addresses of each person approved; 2) Amount of current year deduction; 3) Number of years for which each deduction may be granted; 4) Total amount of deductions for the year.

The following tax abatements (deductions) are approved for 2021 pay 2022 real estate only:

Name & Address	Deduction Amount	Term
Ag Resolutions LLC 15 Ringel Ave, Wabash IN 46992	\$176,860	10 Years
Cly Carol 1722 Glenn Ave, Wabash IN 46992	61,620	5 Years
Dorais David P & Kaye A 473 South Miami St, Wabash IN 46992	44,660	10 Years
Doran Kathryn E Living Trust 11 Cherokee Court, Wabash IN 46992	71,825	5 Years
Evenson Kelly 9 Cherokee Ct, Wabash IN 46992	85,075	5 Years
Frantz Thom & Debbie 19 Cherokee Ct, Wabash IN 46992	110,240	5 Years
Grizelle Tammy 1724 Glenn Ave, Wabash IN 46992	52,260	5 Years
Hyden William & Brandy 560 Hamlin Street, Wabash IN 46992	112,895	5 Years
JTKK Properties (Precision Medical) 400 Beckley St, North Manchester IN 46962	629,185	10 Years
Jacobs Richard H & Diana M 31 Studio Dr, Wabash, IN 46992	122,400	5 Years
Konkle Douglas R & Linda A 25 Cherokee Court, Wabash IN 46992	86,060	5 Years
LMBW Properties LLC 1700 Alber St, Wabash IN 46992	1,393,600	10 Years
Long Jerry Wayne & Lana A 15 Cherokee Court, Wabash IN 46992	84,500	5 Years
M&R Brothers 1363 Garfield St, Wabash IN 46992	754,870	10 Years
MPS Egg (Midwest Poultry) 800 Wabash Rd, North Manchester IN 46962	1,137,815	10 Years
Midwest Poultry Services 5780 E 100 N, North Manchester IN 46962	2,756,425	10 Years
Miller Ronald & Jane 7 Cherokee Court, Wabash IN 46992	53,210	5 Years
Nguyen Jimmy & Kim O Vu & Nha N Tran 19 Gardens Drive, Wabash IN 46992	66,040	5 Years
OJI Intertech 906 W Hanley Rd, North Manchester 46962	1,271,195	10 Years
Paperworks Wabash Inc 455 Factory St, Wabash, IN 46992	1,098,320	10 Years
Petruniv, Mykolaj J & Kristen E 1760 Stitt Street, Wabash IN 46992	152,040	5 Years
Rahee Hospitality Inc N State Road 15, Wabash IN 46992	3,514,400	10 Years
Rich Cheryl 21 Cherokee Ct, Wabash IN 46992	57,230	5 Years
Rock City LP 25 E Market St, Wabash IN 46992	86,100	10 Years
Rock City LP 31 E Market St, Wabash IN 46992	66,200	10 Years
Rock City LP 45 E Market St, Wabash IN 46992	66,900	10 Years
Rock City LP Canal St, Wabash IN 46992	6,400	10 Years
Rock City LP 35 E Market St, Wabash IN 46992	94,000	10 Years
Rock City LP 92 E Market St, Wabash IN 46992	16,300	10 Years
Rock City LP Canal St, Wabash IN 46992	6,400	10 Years
Shepherd Family Real Estate LP 1002 St Rd 114 W, North Manchester IN 46962	42,100	10 Years
Simpao Jose 20 Chrysler Ave, Wabash, IN 46992	49,845	5 Years
Steele Joshua L & Kristine R 78 LaSalle Avenue, Wabash IN 46992	78,840	5 Years
Strauss-Provimi Feed Co Inc 1002 St Rd 114 W, North Manchester IN 46962	1,168,900	10 Years
Troxel Equipment Co 1002 St Rd 114 W, North Manchester IN 46962	853,970	10 Years
Vision Properties LLP 3647 W Old 24, Wabash IN 46992	82,680	10 Years
Total Real Estate Deductions Approved		\$16,511,360

The following tax abatements (deductions) are estimated for 2021 pay 2022 on personal property (equipment & machinery):

Name & Address	Deduction Amount	Term
Advanced Ag Resources 4070 W 50 N, Wabash IN 46992	\$28,330	10 Years
B Walter & Co/Buehrer Industries 655 Factory St, Wabash IN 46992	82,820	10 Years
Custom Cartons Inc 5378 W Old 24, Wabash IN 46992	31,060	10 Years
HF Group LLC 1010 N Sycamore St, North Manchester IN 46962	104,790	10 Years
Hipsher Tool & Die Inc 1593 S St Rd 115, Wabash IN 46992	4,740	10 Years
Jamat Leasing Co Inc 202 Wedcor Ave, Wabash IN 46992	843,960	10 Years
Lens Source Optical Laboratory 3647 W Old St Rd 24, Wabash IN 46992	208,920	10 Years
Lutheran Hospital of Indiana/OM 1700 N Alber St, Wabash IN 46992	25,820	10 Years
Martin Yale Industries LLC 251 Wedcor Ave, Wabash IN 46992	106,630	10 Years
MPS Egg Farms 5780 E 1100 N, North Manchester IN 46962	7,273,810	10 Years
OJI Intertech Inc 906 W Hadley Rd, North Manchester IN 46962	489,940	10 Years
Paperworks Industries Inc 455 Factory St, Wabash IN 46992	2,216,740	10 Years
Precision Medical Technologies 400 Beckley St, North Manchester IN 46962	1,101,800	10 Years
Strauss Veal Feeds Inc 600 Strauss Provimi Rd, North Manchester IN 46962	4,870,170	10 Years
Thermafibre LLC 3711 W Mill St Ext, Wabash IN 46992	821,290	10 Years
Total Personal Property Deductions Estimated		\$18,210,820

ATTEST: Marcie Shepherd, Auditor Wabash County

HSPAXLP.12/22/2021

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0200**WABASH COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT****Full Time Receptionist/Office Assistant**

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The ideal candidate will be Flexible, a team player and reliable.

Hours are 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday with occasional mandatory evenings and Saturdays

REQUIREMENTS:

- Minimum High School diploma
- Well versed in MS Office programs – expertise in excel a plus
- Forklift experience or willingness to be trained and certified
- Valid Indiana driver's license
- Strong verbal and written communications
- Excellent Attendance record
- Ability to be bonded and attend State Government Ethics training for certification
- Must attend and successfully complete Hazwoper Training
- Some travel may be required.

DUTIES:

- Greet and manage the needs of visitors
- Answer phones, distribute mail, maintain filing system, data entry and receiving
- Maintain social media at the discretion of the Director
- Assist bookkeeper with accounts receivables and various accounting tasks
- Assist with retail shop operations.
- Assist the Executive Director with programs, projects, research and other aspects of District operations
- Assist Director with Planning, development and implementation of District events
- Assist in Warehouse operations when needed – some lifting required

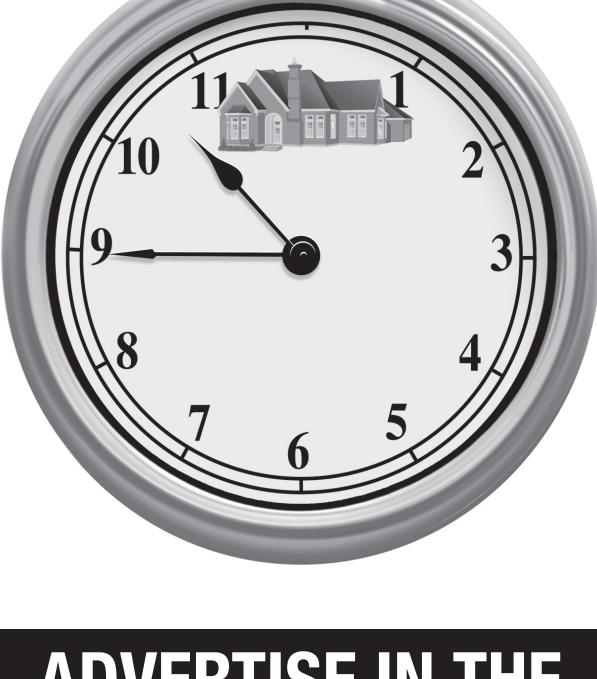
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0900

NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF MANCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Owners of real property, and registered voters residing in, the Manchester Community Schools (the "School Corporation"), are hereby given notice that the Board of School Trustees of the School Corporation (the "Board"), having held meetings and two separate public hearings pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1-20-3.5 and Indiana Code 5-3-1, on December 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the MCS Administration Office, 404 West Ninth Street, North Manchester, Indiana 46962, adopted a resolution (the "Resolution") making a preliminary determination that (a) a need exists for the planning, designing and construction of (i) a new enclosed hallway connector between the Administration/Junior High Building and High School Building; (ii) a new cafeteria and renovations at the High School Building, including repurposing classroom spaces for secure building entry and admittance offices, and repurposing the existing cafeteria as a business classroom, school store and snack/coffee bar, as well as the purchase of equipment including buses; and (iii) a new entrance and renovations at the Elementary School Building, including repurposing existing classroom space for security entry and office space, repurposing old office space as a family restroom and sensory room for STEM, and removal and replacement of the cafeteria floor with a new covering, and all related improvements in connection with (i) through (iii) above (collectively, the "Project"), and (b) to the extent permitted by law to take all of the necessary steps to finance all or a portion of the costs of all, of the Project by entering into a proposed lease (the "Lease") between an Indiana school building corporations, as lessor (collectively, the "Building Corporation"), and the School Corporation, as lessee, relating to all or any portion of the school facilities operated by the School Corporation. If a Lease is entered into, the Building Corporation will issue one or more series of first mortgage bonds secured by and payable from the lease payments under the proposed Lease (the "Bonds").

The total maximum original aggregate principal amount of the Bonds will not exceed \$11,500,000. The maximum term for the Lease will not exceed twenty-two (22) years. Based on the estimated interest rates that will be paid in connection with the Bonds of 5.0%, the total interest cost capitalized therewith, is \$7,430,000, not taking into account any funds of the School Corporation or Building Corporation being available for capitalized interest. The maximum annual lease rental to be paid by the School Corporation under the Lease is \$1,215,000 and the maximum total lease rental over the term of the Lease is \$19,000,000, not taking into account any funds of the Building Corporation available for capitalized interest.

The School Corporation's certified total debt service fund tax levy for 2020 pay 2021 (which is the most recent certified tax levy) is \$2,168,077 and the School Corporation's debt service fund tax rate for 2020 pay 2021 (which is the most recent certified tax rate) is \$0.5344 per \$100 of assessed value. The School Corporation's estimated total debt service fund tax levy for 2021 pay 2022 is \$1,515,452 and the School Corporation's estimated debt service fund tax rate for 2021 pay 2022 is \$0.3601 per \$100 of assessed value. The estimated total maximum debt service fund tax levy for the School Corporation and the estimated total maximum debt service fund tax rate for the School Corporation after the issuance of the Bonds is anticipated to occur no earlier than 2021 pay 2022 and will be \$2,134,250 and \$0.5071 per \$100 of assessed value, respectively, as a result of the payment of the lease rentals under the Lease. The percent of the School Corporation's outstanding long term debt after the issuance of the Bonds, together with the outstanding long term debt of other taxing units that include any of the territory of the School Corporation, compared to the net assessed value of taxable property within the School Corporation is approximately 4.72%. The estimated amount of the School Corporation's debt service levy and rate that will result during the following ten (10) years if the School Corporation enters into the Lease, after also considering any changes that will occur to the debt service levy and rate during that period on account of any outstanding bonds or lease obligations that will mature or terminate during that period is:

Year	Assessed Value	Outstanding Obligations	New Lease Obligation	Total Debt Service Levy	Estimated Tax Rate
2021*	\$405,703,072	\$2,061,788		\$2,168,077	\$0.5344
2022	420,842,112	1,988,634	-	1,515,452	\$0.3601
2023	420,842,112	1,691,458	\$ 440,000	2,131,458	\$0.5065
2024	420,842,112	1,394,250	740,000	2,134,250	\$0.5071
2025	420,842,112	1,473,250	350,000	1,823,250	\$0.4332
2026	420,842,112	239,250	1,000,000	1,239,250	\$0.2945
2027	420,842,112	79,000	1,100,000	1,179,000	\$0.2802
2028	420,842,112	79,000	1,100,000	1,179,000	\$0.2802
2029	420,842,112	79,000	1,100,000	1,179,000	\$0.2802
2030	420,842,112	79,000	1,100,000	1,179,000	\$0.2802
2031	420,842,112	79,000	1,100,000	1,179,000	\$0.2802
2032	420,842,112	79,000	1,100,000	1,179,000	\$0.2802

* Included for additional historical reference.

The estimated completion date of the Project is June 1, 2023. The Board estimates that there will be no additional operational costs associated with the Project.

Petitions requesting the application of the local public question process to the proposed Lease and/or debt service payments related to the Project may be filed with the Wabash County Voter Registration Office within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice in the manner provided by Indiana Code 6-1-20-3.5. If a sufficient petition requesting the application of the local public question process to the proposed Lease and/or debt service payments related to the Project has been filed as set forth in Indiana Code 6-1-20-3.5, the proposed Lease and/or debt service payments related to the Project must be approved in an election on a local public question held under Indiana Code 6-1-20-3.6. In the event that a sufficient petition requesting the application of the local public question process to the proposed Lease and/or debt service payments related to the Project has been filed as set forth in Indiana Code 6-1-20-3.5, the question currently recommended by the Board to be submitted to the registered voters at the election conducted under Indiana Code 6-1-20-3.6 is as follows: "Shall Manchester Community Schools, Wabash County, Indiana, issue bonds or enter into a lease to finance the School Construction Project which consists of the construction of (i) a new enclosed hallway connector between the Administration/Junior High Building and High School Building; (ii) a new cafeteria and renovations at the High School Building, including repurposing classroom spaces for secure building entry and admittance offices, and repurposing the existing cafeteria as a business classroom, school store and snack/coffee bar, as well as the purchase of equipment including buses; and (iii) a new entrance and renovations at the Elementary School Building, including repurposing existing classroom space for security entry and office space, repurposing old office space as a family restroom and sensory room for STEM, and removal and replacement of the cafeteria floor with a new covering, and all related improvements in connection with (i) through (iii) above, which is estimated to cost not more than \$11,500,000 and is estimated to increase the property tax rate for debt service by \$0.1464 per \$100 of assessed valuation?"

Dated: December 15, 2021.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF MANCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

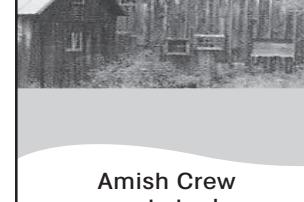
By: Raju Shah, Secretary

HSPAXLP.12/22,12/29/2021

2000

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Sports

A9

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

WabashPlainDealer.com

Wabash boys basketball dismantles Northfield with three-pointers

Apaches will host Manchester in first round of county tournament on Wednesday, Dec. 29

By CLAY MAXFIELD
Wabash Plain Dealer
Freelance Reporter

Wabash's varsity boys basketball team ran out to an early lead on Friday evening when they used sharpshooting from three along with stifling defense to rout Northfield in a Three Rivers Conference match-up by a score of 65 to 34.

The Apaches shot 40 percent from three, converting on 12 makes from distance along with forcing the Norse into 21 turnovers on the night.

Leading up to the Apaches match-up against the Norsemen, Wabash's coaching staff, including head coach Paul Wright, honed in on having their team play a complete four quarters when hosting their county rival.

"The biggest thing is it was really our first game in playing four really complete quarters offensively and defensively," Wright said. "I thought the kids came out with a lot of fire and passion and they continued that for four quarters."

"When you focus on that for four days in practice leading up to a very big Northfield team, it's nice to see that they held their intensity for four quarters."

Northfield took an early four-point lead when Eli Kroh and Paul Treska converted on buckets in the paint to begin the game.

However, Wabash didn't take long afterward to find their offensive footing when they rattled off an eight-point run with Izaak Wright and Trevor Daughtry leading the way with back-to-back layups.

Wright led all scorers with 21 points followed by the Apaches' Grant Ford who finished with 12.

For Northfield and head coach Rex Reimer, their main goal was to limit Wabash in conversions from three.

"I knew going in Wabash takes 27 threes a game and making 40 percent so that's one of the things that we worked on all week and making them a driving team because I knew we had a height advantage inside. We just didn't do that well as a team. We got caught on some screens and didn't communicate very well and just didn't get out to their shooters," Reimer said.

Offensively, Northfield was held to single-digit scoring in both the first and second quarters, while limited to 32 percent shooting from the field.

Four three-pointers from Izaak Wright in the second quarter blew the game open as Wabash ran out to a 31 to 13 lead at halftime.

Wright led Wabash from three, with five of nine, while Grant Ford went four for six from distance as well.

With back-to-back losses for Northfield including a 72 to 34 loss to Peru, the Norsemen are still working to find cohesion with first-year head coach Reimer.

"We're trying to stay positive with the guys," Reimer said. "It sucks being two and four but it's a learning process and that's what I told them at the start of the year. It's not going to happen overnight and we're wanting to change some things offensively and defensively and the kids are trying to buy into it."

The Wabash victory snapped a two-game losing streak as the Apaches overcame the height disadvantage against the Norse to beat Northfield on the glass Friday evening, 39 to 29, including 13 offensive rebounds.

Moving forward, Wabash will shift their focus to the county tournament where they will host Manchester in the first round of tourney play on Wednesday, Dec. 29.

For Wabash to be crowned tourney champs for the first time since 2020, Wright believes his team



Photos by Clay Maxfield / Plain Dealer

Four three-pointers from Izaak Wright in the second quarter blew the game open as Wabash ran out to a 31 to 13 lead at halftime.



Wabash head coach Paul Wright honed in on having their team play a complete four quarters when hosting their county rival.



Trevor Daughtry helped the Apaches find their offensive footing.

will have to bring the same defensive intensity that carried them Friday evening.

"We want to pressure all teams but we really wanted to get out and pressure Northfield," Wright said. "We wanted to set the tone defen-

sively and I thought Friday and into the future, we set the tone defensively. We feel like our defense sets up our offense."

Clay Maxfield, Wabash Plain Dealer freelance reporter, may be reached by email at sports@wabashplaindealer.com.

SOUTHWOOD VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL DEFEATS MANCHESTER 53-39 ON FRIDAY



Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer

Southwood's Alaina Winer wrestles with the Squires' Ella Clifford, bottom, and Aliala Atienza during the girls varsity opener Friday at SHS.

MANCHESTER VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL DEFEATS SOUTHWOOD 63-56 ON FRIDAY



Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer

A defensive struggle ensues between Southwood's no. 10 Nathan Lehner and the Squires senior Cade Jones on Friday at SHS.

NORTHFIELD VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL DEFEATS WABASH 41-27 ON SATURDAY



Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer

Emily Pennington, of Northfield High School, center left, is encircled by Apaches including Brookynn Westendorf, left, Linda Cordes, center right, and Rylee Yoakum, far right, on Saturday at NHS.

DISTRICTS

From page A1

meetings. Those votes were all unanimous.

Wabash County Commissioners districts

The commissioners are required to re-establish three election districts for themselves the first year after a federal decennial census, according to the resolution.

These election districts must be "as equal of population as possible."

The following population breakdown is for the current commissioners' districts and their associated precincts:

- District 1 (population 10,931) consists of the following precincts: Chester 1 (population 917), Chester 2 (population 807), Chester 3 (population 1,657), Chester 4 (population 1,174), Chester 5 (population 1,119), Chester 6 (population 1,327), Pleasant 1 (population 1,015), Pleasant 2 (population 1,373) and Paw Paw (population 1,542).

- District 2 (population 6,123) consists of the following precincts: Lagro 1 (population 907), Lagro 2 (population 1,306), Lagro 3 (population 520), Liberty 1 (population 1,253), Liberty 2 (population 938) and Waltz (population 1,199).

- District 3 (population 13,922) consists of the following precincts: Noble 1 (population 922), Noble 2 (population 1,185), Noble 3 (population 1,475), Noble 4 (population 1,076), Noble 5 (population 1,329), Noble 6 (population 1,461), Noble 7 (population 1,216), Noble 8 (population 1,100), Noble 9 (population 1,445) and Noble 11 (population 937).

The major change between the old maps and the current maps is that the townships of Noble 6, Noble 9 and Noble 11 have all been moved from District 3 to District 2. With these changes, District 1 will have a population of 10,931, District 2 will have a population of 9,936 and District 3 will have a population of 10,109.

Wabash County Council districts

The commissioners are required to re-establish four election districts for the Wabash County Council the first year after a federal decennial census, according to the resolution.

The following breakdown is for the current council districts and their associated precincts:

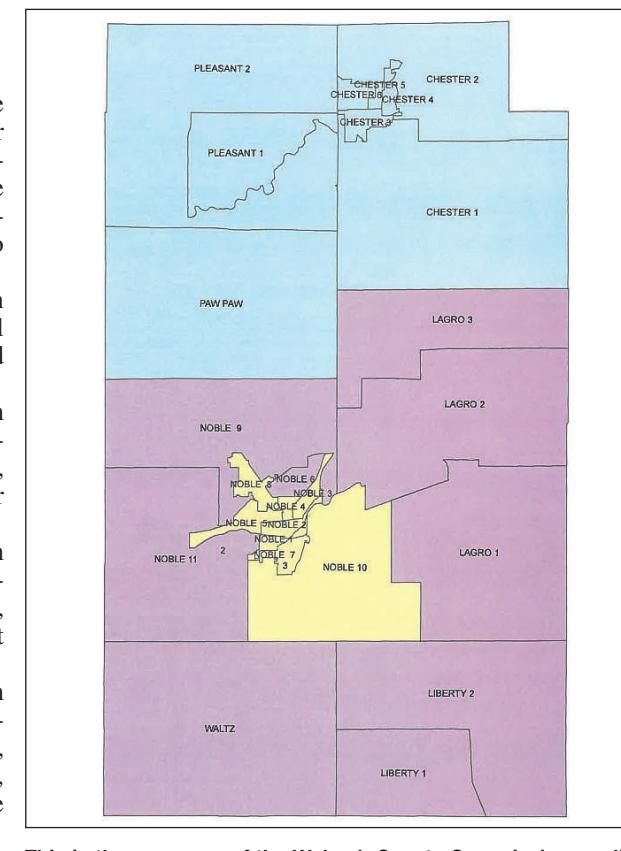
- District 1 (population 7,001) consists of the following precincts: Chester 1, Chester 2, Chester 3, Chester 4, Chester 5 and Chester 6.

- District 2 (population 8,281) consists of the following precincts: Noble 3, Noble 6, Noble 9, Pleasant 1, Pleasant 2 and Paw Paw.

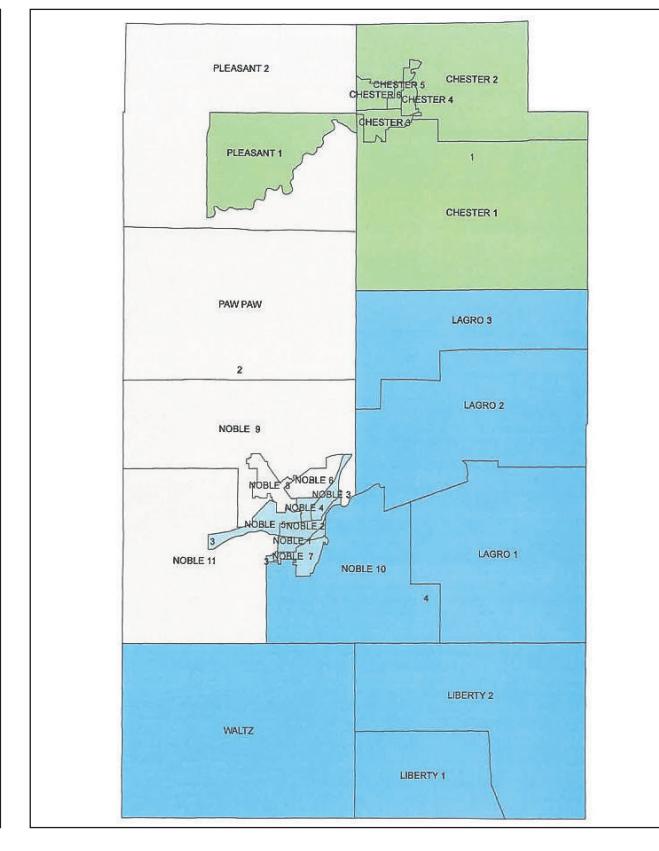
- District 3 (population 8,126) consists of the following precincts: Noble 1, Noble 2, Noble 4, Noble 5, Noble 7, Noble 8 and Noble 11.

- District 4 (population 7,568) consists of the following precincts: Lagro 1, Lagro 2, Lagro 3, Liberty 1, Liberty 2, Noble 10 and Waltz.

The major changes in the new election districts are that Pleasant 1 has moved from District 2 to District 1, Noble 3 has moved from District 2 to District 3, and



This is the new map of the Wabash County Commissioners districts.



Provided graphics
These are new Wabash County Council districts.

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The Wabash Plain Dealer will not be publishing its Weekend Edition on Saturday Dec. 25, 2021 and Saturday Jan. 1, 2022 since USPS does not deliver mail on federal holidays.

We will, however, publish those Weekend Editions on Friday Dec. 24, 2021 and Friday Dec. 31, 2021.

The office will be closed Dec. 24th and Dec. 31st to allow our employees to spend time with family.

Obituaries received by normal deadline times on Thursday Dec. 23, will appear in Friday's editions. Obituaries received after deadline Thursday and through the weekend will be published in the next available edition.

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*Valid at participating locations only. See locations for details. **Offer valid on one (1) Rely 2 RIE digital hearing aid technology. Fits up to a 35 dB loss. Previous purchases excluded. Cannot be combined with any other promotions or discounts. Benefits of hearing instruments may vary by type and degree of hearing loss, noise environment, accuracy of hearing evaluation and proper fit. 2021 All rights reserved. Beltone is a trademark of GN Hearing Care Corporation.

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